-----Original Message-----
From: Pete Rabbitt [mailto:RabbittPete@deanza.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2008 11:12 AM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: North Central Coast Siting

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to ask that, in determining the upcoming sites of MLPA closures in the North Central Area, you consider the needs of ocean kayak anglers. With their limited range and need for protected launch sites, ocean kayak anglers are restricted to a handful of near-shore fishing areas along the San Mateo coastline. The loss of these locations would severely impact the growing sport of kayak fishing in Northern California.

Self-propelled and with limited range and load capabilities, fishing kayaks have a very low impact on the environment and marine life. Additionally, every kayak angler I have ever had contact with understands and supports the need for the preservation of marine life in the areas that we fish. We only ask that our needs as California citizens and voters are considered when it comes to the level of restriction placed upon our fishing grounds.

Because of recent closures in the South Central Coast area many of the safe, productive kayaks fishing areas in that vicinity are unfortunately now off-limit to kayak anglers. As a kayak fisherman who quite often frequented the Monterey and Carmel area, I am now forced to find new launch sites that are safe enough to launch from and yet have a sustainable fish population. Sites along the San Mateo coast that fit this description include, but are not limited to: the Pigeon Point area, the Pescadero reef area, Linda Mar Beach and Bean Hollow State Beach.

Closure of the aforementioned sites would effectively curtail the sport of ocean kayak fishing for many Northern California residents, especially those with limited experience. I would ask you to please examine all proposals closely, keeping in mind the needs of California ocean kayak anglers.

Regards,

Pete Rabbitt
Sunnyvale, CA

Some days are just not worth gnawing through the leather restraints...